

commandant of the Alamo, and he was surrounded by 6,000 to 8,000 troops under Mexican General Santa Anna. Things looked hopeless and Colonel Travis sent out a letter that is famous all over the great State of Texas that says, "To all freedom-loving people of the world, please send aid with all dispatch."

So I am here this evening on behalf of my brother, John, to ask all freedom-loving people of the world if you know of something that might yet help him, I would certainly appreciate hearing from you to see if we may yet be able to help him.

I see my good friend, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK), who is a cancer survivor, on the floor. Before I talk a little bit more about my brother, I would be happy to yield to her if she wishes to speak.

I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina to give us some words of wisdom.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, first I want to say I am extremely disturbed to hear about the gentleman's brother. These are things that none of us hope we will have to face. I assume the gentleman has checked with the National Cancer Institute as to their recommendations.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. I have, Mr. Speaker.

Mrs. MYRICK. Maybe somebody does know of something that can help him, because there is a lot happening in this field.

It is really scary, because one in four of us in this country today is getting cancer. If it were anything else, it would be an epidemic. Think about it: one in four Americans today gets cancer. It is very scary, and it is at a point where I believe we in Congress need to give it a high priority. We are doing well with treatment options and finding treatment options, but we really have not done as much as I think we should when it comes to prevention and causes. Why are one in four of us coming down with this dreaded disease?

I just recently finished treatment successfully, I am thankful to say, for breast cancer. And my cancer was known. I was feeling perfectly fine, had my normal mammograms every year. Started having a pain in my right breast and I went to the doctor here, he sent me out to Bethesda. They did another mammogram, showed nothing. I went to literally five different doctors who could feel nothing. Everybody said, nothing there, it is all okay. But I knew something was wrong, so I finally got a doctor in my hometown of Charlotte to do an ultrasound. Big as life, there the tumor showed up.

Immediately, they did a biopsy; and it was cancerous, and I immediately had surgery as soon as the biopsy healed. As I say, I went through chemotherapy. As the gentleman knows from his brother, you do not wish it on anyone. I also did radiation and now I am finished with all of that. So I am

very blessed. But the scary part to me is the number of women, because I went public with my story to see if it could help other women, the number of women who have said to me that they do not either get mammograms or they are afraid to find out what they might find out if they go do it. We wonder in America today why, with all of the so-called knowledge we have. There are a lot of people who are out there who are fearful, I mean really fearful, to even talk about cancer.

So I hope that by some of the things we are able to do here in Congress and by some of us who have been through this, being willing to share our stories, that we will take some of the fear out of this whole subject of what can happen to us and give people hope.

The other thing that is so important, I say to the gentleman, and I know that the gentleman will also relay it to his brother, is a positive attitude, because having a positive attitude and being determined to beat this is one of the best things that one can do personally. I know friends of mine who have been through this who have maintained a positive attitude that I am going to beat it are fine, and the ones that have just given in to it are having trouble after trouble after trouble and it does not go away, so there has to be something to do as well, and the spiritual aspect as well too.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my brother's attitude is such that he peps us up. It is amazing to me that here he is, because it is the liver cancer, he is very jaundiced and has difficulty moving now, and yet when we talk to him on the telephone or see him in person, he is the most upbeat person in the room. It just amazes me the faith that he has and the attitude that he can be trying to cheer others up. I will call him, and I will be mad about something we have done in the Congress or we have not done in the Congress; and he will kid with me about, am I going to come back the next day and rectify that. I mean, it is just amazing.

So the gentlewoman is exactly right, that attitude is important.

Mrs. MYRICK. Well, and faith. The Lord has been very good to me and the Lord has been good to a lot of people, and a lot of people are healed when the doctors tell them they cannot be healed. Has anybody considered a liver transplant?

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have offered half of my liver. I am a little bit older than my brother, but I do not smoke and drink, so I am healthy, other than a lot of air miles back and forth to Texas. The problem with that is that his liver is so far gone and it has metastasized. They did not want to do a transplant or let me donate even half my liver because the theory is that they would have to lower his immune system to take a new liver and in doing that, the cancer may be other places and it would explode.

Now, there is some tremendous research being done. Stem cells and bone

marrow have shown that they can migrate to the liver and transform into new liver cells; and, of course, the liver will regenerate itself.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, they are doing that with the heart also.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Yes. I am absolutely confident within 5 to 10 years it will be possible to take my brother's own bone marrow cells and probably grow him a new liver and put his own new liver into his liver; but that may be 5 or 6 years down the road, or 10 years, and right now he is counting weeks if we are not able to help get him an option.

But we looked at transplants. We looked at Johns Hopkins, we looked at M.D. Anderson in Houston, we looked at Baylor Medical in Dallas, we looked at University of Pittsburgh. I mean, he has checked that option as late as last week, and it just does not appear that that is in the cards. But that would certainly be an option if it were not a metastasized cancer, if it were what is called a hepatoma, which is an original cancer in the liver. I think that would have been a very viable option 3 or 4 months ago.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I know that people in this country will join myself and I know a lot of others in sending up prayers for your brother. Like I said, miracles do happen.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. That is true. That is true. My brother has told me one miracle. He had to undergo chemotherapy last year for his sinus carcinoma and he said he wanted it as strong as he could take it. So they literally took him to the verge of death with his first round of chemotherapy, and he told me and his wife and our other family members that an angel came and sat on the edge of his bed in the hospital and was talking to him and telling him that things would be fine and that he did not have to worry about his wife or his children. It just gave John a sense of peace that the Lord was with him and had sent an angel down. Of course, at that time, he came back.

So I know that there is an angel that has been assigned to him. Of course, we are hoping that the angel does not have to come again real soon, that we want the angel to keep an eye on my little brother, John, but not take him from us yet.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, that is a real blessing.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Yes.

I would like to just humanize John a little bit, tell a few stories about his background. I have already mentioned that he is 43 years old, married, has two lovely children, two sons. But John is not perfect.

I remember the first week he got his driver's license and he was 16 in Waco, Texas, and my parents had one good car and one kind of second car, and so John got to drive the second car. It was a Ford Fairlane. The first week he got his driver's license he was driving down 25th street in Waco, and at that time